



INDIANA REPERTORY THEATRE

02 January 2015

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
c/o Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Comments in ET Docket No. 14-165 and GN Docket Nos. 12-268 and 14-166 Via Electronic Filing

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioner Clyburn, Commissioner Rosenworcel, Commissioner Pai, Commissioner O'Rielly and Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of Indiana Repertory Theatre, located in Indianapolis, IN, that provides approximately 300 performances a year to over 61,000 audience members and education programming to over 40,000 students all in an effort to help build a vital and vibrant community and provide a home of cultural expression, economic vitality, and a diverse, informed, and engaged citizenry, I write with concern about protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices.

I understand the Commission has ruled that performing arts entities that regularly use 50 or more wireless devices will be eligible to apply for a Part 74 license. I've also learned that the FCC is seeking Comment on a proposed rule that would prevent performing arts entities using fewer than 50 wireless devices from participating in the database. This would leave my organization without any interference protection mechanism from the many TV Band Devices that may soon flood the market. Frequency coordination with other known wireless microphone users has become common practice, but there is no way to coordinate with TVBD's if you don't know about them.

Thousands of performances are held by professional performing arts organizations each year and the use of wireless microphones is both essential to producing high-quality performances and also mitigates against significant public safety concerns. Professional wireless capability, with successful interference protection, is essential to our sector.

Currently we utilize between 3 and 25 wireless devices in each production. These devices operate mostly in the 550 MHz to 700 MHz range. Like most not-for-profit institutions, our commitment to our community restricts how frequently we can upgrade our equipment. This restriction has resulted in our equipment not being overly tunable and as such further restricts the usable bandwidth that we access. Not the least of these pieces is our assisted listening devices

which helps us maintain access for our disabled patron which runs at 72 MHz, squarely in the VHF frequency range. This is only one example of our equipment which could potentially be further complicated as all of our equipment operates within the TV range whether that is VHF or UHF. Much of this equipment is analog and luckily, we were only slightly impacted by vacating the 700 MHz band. If we had to replace this equipment it would result in a need for us to cut back on our employees and on the services we provide to our community: underwriting of student tickets for underserved communities, artists-in-the-classroom visits to local schools, etc.

I appreciate that the Commission has sought Public Comment on these very important issues. Professional performing arts organizations should all have some sort of interference protection. While some entities will be protected by access to the geo-location database, many professional performing arts organizations will not under this plan. Further, I would request that the Commission consider the burden already borne by the performing arts community in vacating the 700 MHz band. I am concerned about the cost of once again replacing my theatre's sound equipment.

Performing arts organizations provide demonstrable service to the public in improving quality of life; preserving our cultural heritage; and in providing education, enlightenment, entertainment. They also contribute to local economies in every community across this country. I respectfully request that the Commission maintain access to interference protection and establish a mechanism to reimburse performing arts organizations for the cost of new equipment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian S. Newman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian S. Newman
Production Manager
Indiana Repertory Theatre